

A FREE PAPER FOR FREE KIDS

★ indykids



Armenian History
and Culture

PAGES 2, 5, 6 & 8

Issue #9 ★ May/June 2007

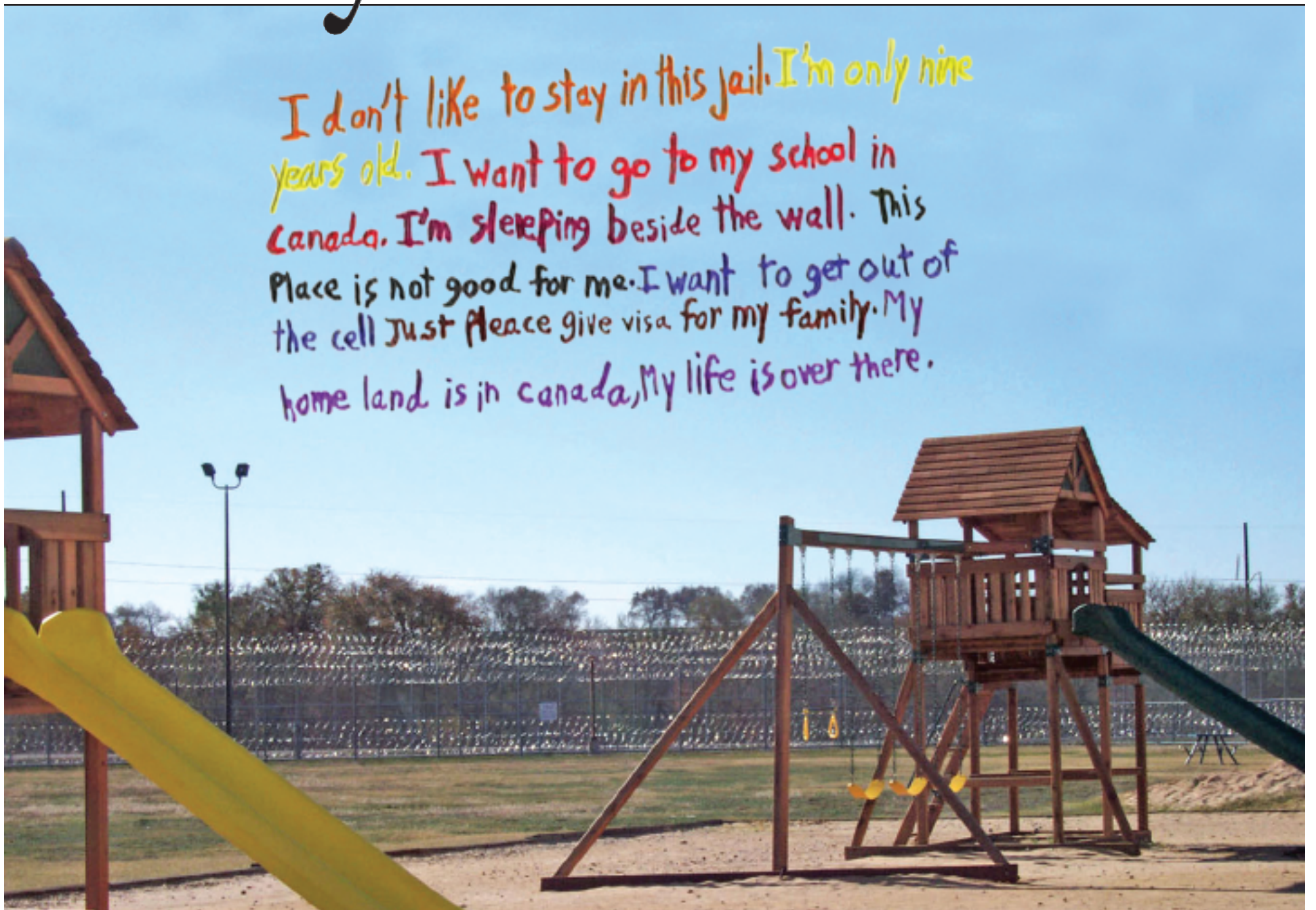


PHOTO: WOMEN'S COMMISSION/MICHELLE BRANÉ; HANDWRITING: KEVIN YOURDKHANI
Nine-year-old Canadian Kevin Yourdkhani wrote a letter to the prime minister of Canada asking for a visa for his family. They were held for more than a month under prison-like conditions at this immigration detention center in Texas.

One Child's Plea for Help

By XAVIER TAYO

Canadian citizen Kevin Yourdkhani, 9, and his parents were traveling to Canada from Iran when their airplane made an emergency stop in Puerto Rico. Kevin's parents are Iranian citizens applying for asylum in Canada because they fear going back to Iran. They were detained at the Hutto Center in Taylor, Texas for nearly six weeks.



While they were detained, Kevin wrote a letter to the prime minister of Canada asking for help. The letter was published in the Canadian newspaper, the Globe and Mail, and the story of Kevin and his family made news headlines in Canada.

The Canadian government gave the family a temporary resident permit to stay in Canada while their asylum application is being reviewed. Kevin said of his first night back in Canada, "I was sleeping like I was in heaven."

DENTENTION CONDITIONS

- 1 hour of recreation per day
- 20 minutes to eat each meal
- 5 minutes to shower
- Children are often sick from the food

IN HER WORDS ...

"This man [who works at the facility] calls us 'dirty undocumented' or 'ignorant people.' This really hurts me. ... He laughed and said something I didn't understand. I tried to just walk away but he made me feel so bad that I couldn't stand it and started to cry."

— Christina, a 14-year-old girl who was detained for two years, in a letter to the Women's Commission for Refugee Rights

SOURCE: THE REPORT LOCKING UP FAMILY VALUES:
THE DETENTION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Immigrant Families With Kids Detained

By AMANDA VENDER

There is a place in Texas where over 200 children are being detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because they do not have proper documents to be in the United States. The place is called the T. Don Hutto Residential Center, but, according to a report by two non-profit organizations, it feels like a prison.

Most children at the Hutto center are under age 12. Some families with young children have been in this kind of prison for up to two years during their immigration court hearings. Most people at Hutto are from Central or South America, but there are also people from other countries including Greece, Haiti, Iraq and Romania.

The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and the Women's Commission for Refugee Rights say fami-

lies are being held in a prison-like setting behind razor wire, with overly harsh discipline and inadequate medical care. "As a country that supports family values, we should not be treating immigrant families who have not committed a crime like criminals, particularly children," said LIRS president Ralston H. Deffenbaugh.

Before 2001, the U.S. imprisoned immigrant families for only a short time and then released them while they had to attend immigration court hearings. But ICE says that most immigrants who were released did not come back for their immigration hearings. ICE is thinking about having more programs where immigrants are not detained, but instead wear radio ankle bracelets to track where they are.

What do you think? Should immigrants be detained or wear radio ankle bracelets when they don't have proper immigration documents?

ARMENIA QUICK FACTS

Population: 3 million • **Capital:** Yerevan • **Official language:** Armenian • **Religion:** Christian (97%) • **History:** In 1915, the Armenians were killed or driven from their native homeland by the Turkish government in what is defined as genocide (a deliberate attempt to wipe out a racial group or nation). A piece of Armenia gained independence in 1918, only to be absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1920. Armenia achieved independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

MEET TAMAR, AN ARMENIAN-AMERICAN

Name: Tamar Sosi Beylerian, age 11

School: Westbrook Middle School, Paramus, New Jersey

Language: English, Armenian **Religion:** Armenian Apostolic Christianity

Favorite subject in school: Biology

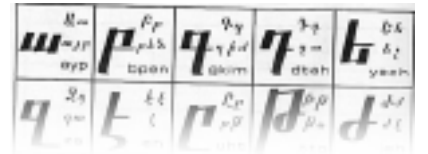
Favorite hobby: Dance

Family: "All eight of my great-grandparents survived the Genocide of the Armenians in 1915. My father's side came to the U.S. through the Middle East, but my mother's side came directly to the U.S. through Ellis Island in the 1920s. That makes me a fourth generation Armenian living outside our homeland."

Sibling: A sister, Lucine, age 8

What she wants to be when she grows up: A nature photographer or a ballerina

Why she wants to be involved in Armenian cultural activities: "I think it's important to know where your ancestors came from. I enjoy learning and performing Armenian songs and dances and to be able to tell people about my background when they ask. If we don't keep our customs alive, they will die off. By speaking Armenian, I can enter a whole different world." **-LK**



Learn a little Armenian!

These words are from the Western Armenian Dialect:

Hello: Parev	School: Tubrotz
How are you? Eench bes es?	Book: Keerk
I'm fine: Lav em	Family: Undaneek
Dance: Bar	Donkey: Esh

ALPHABET ILLUSTRATION BY NISHAN HAMPARIAN

BUDGET 2008

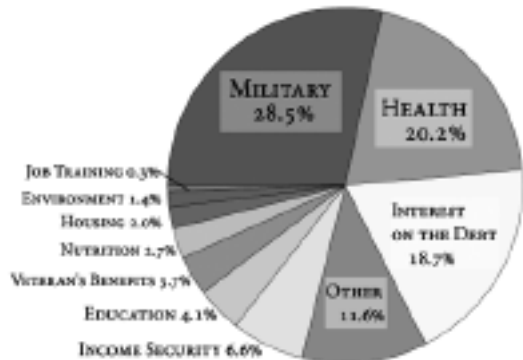
WHERE OUR TAXES GO

By KATY PARRISH

Ever wonder how teachers and police get paid or how roads and parks are taken care of? Every year, the U.S. government decides how to spend the money it receives from tax dollars paid by your parents and businesses. How do you decide how to spend your money? What if you — like the government — were working with trillions of dollars?

The first step the government takes in deciding where our tax money goes begins with the president who makes suggestions for a budget. He does this before the first Monday in February. For 2008, President Bush wants to spend more money on the military. He also plans to cut money for many programs for special needs children and services for the poor.

Many people in Congress don't agree with the president and are try-



ing to come up with suggestions for ways to stop these cuts. Over the next six months many Congressional committees will meet to figure out how to get their ideas accepted by the president. The final budget for 2008 must be approved before October 1, 2007.

If you were in charge, how would you spend the government's money? Do you think how the budget is divided in the pie chart above is fair? Send your suggestions to your senators or member of Congress. You can find out who your representatives are by going to: www.congress.org

BUDGET GRAPHIC: NATIONAL PRIORITIES PROJECT

Congress Investigates Firings of U.S. Attorneys

By XAVIER TAYO

Alberto Gonzales is the Attorney General of the United States and is the nation's top law enforcement officer. He is in charge of the Justice Department and part of the executive branch of government. Lately, Congress (the legislative branch of government) has been stepping in to use its power to check the Bush administration.

Last year the White House fired eight U.S. attorneys, law enforcement officers under Attorney General Gonzales. The White House says the attorneys were fired because they didn't do their job well. But the attorneys had received good performance reports.

Many Democrats say the attorneys may have been fired for political reasons — because they weren't loyal enough to the

Bush administration. Congress is holding investigations to find out if the Bush administration abused its executive authority by firing the U.S. attorneys. Leaders in Congress insist that senior Bush officials testify under oath in front of



ACHIEVEMENT.ORG
Attorney General Alberto Gonzales will testify before Congress.

Congress. The White House doesn't want them to testify and might try to prevent them from doing so. A constitutional conflict may arise if the president refuses to let his senior aides testify.

Attorney General Gonzales has also been criticized for defending the president's illegal spying on U.S. citizens and for approving U.S. soldiers' use of torture against prisoners in Iraq. Gonzales is scheduled to testify to Congress in April about the U.S.

attorney firings. Many members of Congress including Democrats and some Republicans want Gonzales to resign. But President Bush says he still has confidence in Gonzales.

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

STAFF

Editors: Abby Gross, Amanda Vender **Design:** Dave Baker

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Common Language Project: www.commonlanguageproject.net
New York Collective of Radical Educators: www.nycore.org
New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
New York Public Library: www.nypl.org
Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

THANK YOU to the following donors for supporting IndyKids!

SILVER STAR: \$500 +
Broadway United Church of Christ
NYC Councilman Robert Jackson

GOLD STAR: \$5,000
North Star Fund

PURPLE STAR: \$300
Barbara Gross

BLUE STAR: \$50
Marj & Larry Long
Mona Sehgal & Jacob Levich
Neal Stone
Xavier Tayo

RED STAR: \$100

Kiran Frey
Gary Martin
Harriet & Phillip Vender

CORRECTIONS: Asthma Initiative Program correct phone number is 212-420-3592

Sally and Paola, students at Flushing International High School, were also authors of the raps in the March/April 2007 IndyKids.

News Briefs

WORLD

Global Warming Unfair

A United Nations committee released a report that says global warming is hurting poor countries more so than the Western countries that are mostly responsible for global warming. The United States and Western Europe produce two-thirds of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, but Africa, one of the poorest regions of the world, produces less than 3% of carbon dioxide emissions. Yet Africa is among the regions that suffer most from the effects of global warming. Poor countries also have less money to protect against the effects of flooding and drought.



Scuffles with Iran

In January, the U.S. captured five Iranian government officials at an Iranian consulate office in Iraq. The U.S. accuses them of spying. Then, in March, Iran captured 15 British sailors on a ship in the Persian Gulf. Iran said that the British ship was in Iranian territory. The British sailors were freed after 13 days. The president of Iran said that they were forgiven "as a gift to the British nation." The U.S. is still holding the five Iranian officials in Iraq.

NATION

Battle Over Iraq Troops

President Bush is battling Congress because he does not want a deadline to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq. The U.S. House and Senate passed bills that would give Bush \$100 billion more for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but would set a deadline for a partial withdrawal of the 150,000 troops in Iraq. Bush says he will veto this and will only sign a bill "with no strings attached."

SCIENCE

Chimps with Weapons

For the first time, researchers in the West African nation of Senegal observed chimpanzees using spears to hunt other animals. The chimpanzees made their spears by taking branches, trimming off the leaves and bark and then sharpening the tips with their teeth. They went hunting with these new tools, jabbing them into holes where small animals live. That's sharp!

SPORTS

Metal Bat Ban



The New York City Council passed a law that would ban the use of metal bats in New York City public high school baseball games. Sponsors of the bill say there are safety concerns because baseballs fly off metal bats faster than wood ones. Critics say that there is no scientific evidence that metal bats are more dangerous. The Mayor vetoed the ban but the City Council has the votes to override his veto.

VICTORY! McDONALD'S AGREES TO HIGHER PAY FOR TOMATO PICKERS

By LAUREN KARCHMER and AUDREY SASSON

On April 9, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) won a huge victory when McDonald's agreed to the demands of the tomato pickers. Now McDonald's will pay a penny more per pound of tomatoes each farmworker picks and develop rules to keep workers safe in the fields.

The CIW is a group of farmworkers living in southwest Florida. They are from Mexico, Haiti, Guatemala and other countries. They pick tomatoes for big companies like McDonald's but get paid very little. Farmworkers are paid 40 cents per bucket of tomatoes they fill. They have to



JANNA SCHNEIDER/COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

pick more than two tons of tomatoes everyday just to make enough to survive. It's a small amount of money for a big corporation like McDonald's — which last year earned almost 7 billion dollars in profits — but just a penny more per

pound of tomatoes nearly doubles the amount farmworkers earn each year.

"Today, with McDonald's," said Lucas Benitez of the CIW, "we have taken another major step toward a world where... farmworkers can enjoy a fair wage and humane working conditions in exchange for the hard and essential work we do every day."

On April 13th, thousands of people traveled to the McDonald's headquarters in Chicago to celebrate the victory with the CIW. Young people have been important in the effort to encourage McDonald's to treat workers fairly. Said Gerardo Reyes-Chavez of the CIW, "We know that students have a lot of power because they are the main target of McDonald's."

SAVED LIVES OR LOST TIME?

Prisoners Set Free Thanks to DNA Testing

By MARC LaFLECHE

Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? Many of us have been grounded for something someone else did. We had to go to bed without supper, miss our friend's birthday party, or lose television privileges for a week. Can you imagine spending twenty years in prison for something you didn't do? This is the fate of many convicted prisoners who received unfair trials.

DNA testing has reopened many court cases long after the accused were sent to prison. These men and women had to sit in jail until science became accurate enough to set them free.

On March 29, Antonio Beaver became a free man after spending ten years behind bars for a carjacking (car stealing) he did not commit. He was cleared of all wrongdoing when the DNA of the blood in the car did not match his own. In 1997 he was sent to prison after the car's owner incorrectly identified Beaver as the man who stole her car. Now Beaver has to rebuild his life at his aunt and uncle's home in Missouri.

"Antonio Beaver should never have been arrested for this crime, let alone convicted," said Nina Morrison, Beaver's attorney at the Innocence Project. The Innocence Project was founded in 1992 to help wrongly convicted prisoners overturn their convictions and rebuild their lives.

One hundred ninety-eight prisoners in 32 states, 14 of whom were on death row, have been freed because of DNA testing. In 22 states, prisoners who were wrongly



Antonio Beaver after being released from prison for a crime he did not commit.

imprisoned may seek damage award money after being released. But most innocent people leave prison without an apology or anything in return for their years in prison.

U.S. PRISON STATISTICS

- 2,193,798 people in jails and prisons as of December 2005
- The U.S. imprisons more people than any country in the world (as a percentage of its population).
- People imprisoned by race: **Whites:** 393 per 100,000 people; **Latinos:** 957 per 100,000 people; **Blacks:** 2,531 per 100,000 people

DNA TESTING

DNA testing examines cells to see our genetic material and tell one person from another.

SOURCES: BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS AND PRISONPOLICY.ORG

MAP OF LOCATIONS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE



Extra! Extra! Read All About Being a Journalist!

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the right to seek, receive and to give information. That means we have the right to know what's going on in the world. It is the job of journalists to help us get information. Their reports are published in newspapers and magazines, on the radio, TV and Internet.

HOW IS A STORY CREATED?

Shay Everitt, a reporter and journalism student and a contributing writer for the San Jacinto Times in Texas, had this to say:

"First the story idea has to be formed. It comes from the journalist, their boss or other outside sources. Once that happens then the journalist has to find and contact sources to interview. Then you set up an interview with the person. You must create questions that will help you get the information you want. During an interview I have found that unless there is a time limit you should let the person speak as much as they want because the more information, the better. Then you pick out key information from the interviews and put it together in the story.



"From there write about the most important things first, leaving the least important things for the end. You submit it to the editor or producer for evaluation. Then there is some communication back and forth a few times to make sure the information is accurate and everything is grammatically correct. And then it is done."

What has been Shay's most exciting moment as a journalist? "When I first heard myself on the radio. It was thrilling to know that I conducted the interviews, wrote the story, edited the story and recorded it all on my own."

ELEMENTS OF A NEWS ARTICLE

Be a Journalist! Many people believe that a journalist is anyone who reports on events. This is "citizen journalism," an idea that if we only hear our news from journalists who are paid by corporate-owned media sources, then we will never hear important stories. Anyone can be a journalist. To report like a professional, keep these things in mind:

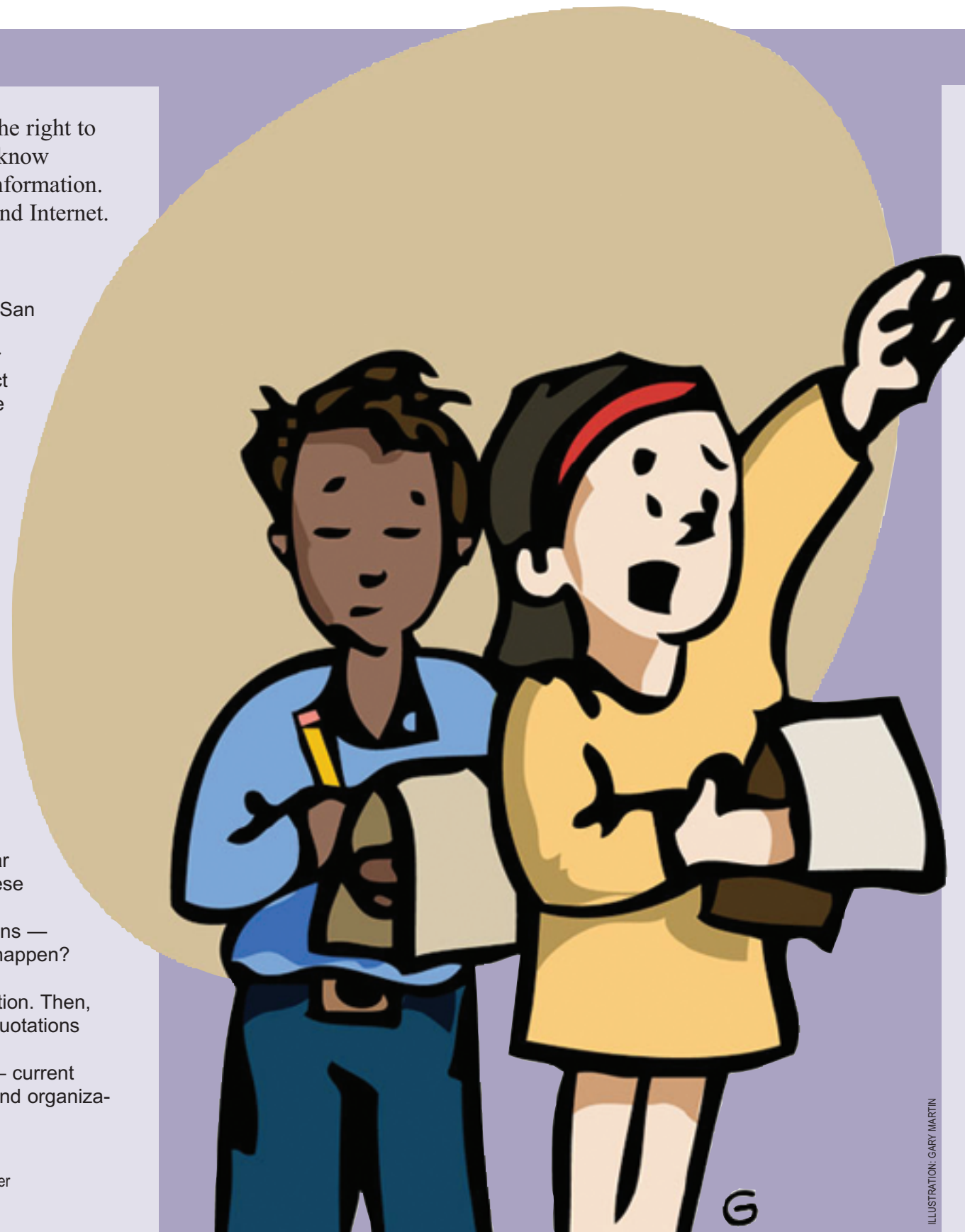
In the first sentence or two of your article, you should answer these five questions — **Who** are you writing about? **What** happened? **Where** did it happen? **When** did it happen? **Why** did it happen? These questions are called the "five W's."

In the beginning of your article, you should give the broad overview of the situation. Then, you should narrow your focus, until it becomes extremely specific. Be sure to use quotations from people you interview and check your facts.

Keep in mind that there are many kinds of news. You could write "hard news" — current events and reports on situations. You could write "soft news" — profiles of people and organizations. Or you could do both. What kind of news do you want to report?

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IndyKids contributors to these stories: Griffin Epstein, Abby Gross, Lucine Kasbarian, Marc LaFleche and Amanda Vender



DANGEROUS WORK

Many journalists have dangerous jobs. The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that 55 journalists were killed on the job in 2006. Here are two journalists who have suffered just because they were doing their jobs:



Sami al Hajj is a Sudanese cameraman who worked for the TV station Al-Jazeera. He was held by Pakistani police in December 2001 while traveling with his film crew. He was transferred to U.S. hands and taken to an air base in Afghanistan. Al Hajj says that he was tortured by U.S. soldiers. He is now being held at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but has not been charged with any crime or had a trial in a court. He has been in prison for over five years. Al Hajj's lawyer says the U.S. military is holding him because it wants information about al Hajj's employer, Al-Jazeera, not because al Hajj committed a crime.



Hrant Dink was an Armenian journalist and editor of Agos — an Armenian and Turkish-language newspaper based in Turkey. Hrant wrote about the need for free speech and minority rights in Turkey, which included the right to talk about the Armenian Genocide.

As a writer and peace activist, Hrant's work brought him international awards for defending freedom of thought and expression. His work also brought him more than 2,500 death threats from Turks. In fact, those who were critical of his writings took Hrant to court three times for "insulting the Turkish nation." On January 19, Ogun Samast, a Turkish teenager, shot and killed Hrant in front of the Agos office. When Samast was caught, the Turkish police posed for pictures with the assassin as if he were a hero. As Turkey struggles to become a more open society, the country is held back by those who continue to practice discrimination.

Journalist Robert Fisk called Hrant "the 1,500,001st victim of the Armenian Genocide," viewing Hrant's murder as a continuation of the racism that fueled the Genocide of 1915 (see article on page 6).

PRISON TIME FOR PROTECTING SOURCES



Journalist **Josh Wolf** was freed in April after seven and a half months in prison. He spent more time in jail than any journalist in U.S. history for the reason of protecting sources. Josh was jailed for refusing to turn over a video he took to a grand jury and for refusing to name the people in the video, which was of protesters at a 2005 demonstration in San Francisco.

Josh was released from jail after a compromise was reached. He agreed to answer two questions about what he saw at the protest and to put the video of the protest on his website for all to see. But he didn't have to appear before a grand jury and give the names of people at the protest.

In 2006, the Society of Professional Journalists awarded Josh "Journalist of the Year" for "for upholding the principles of a free...press." Many other organizations of journalists supported Josh because they believe it is important for journalists to be able to protect their sources.

After being released, Josh told Democracy Now! News, "A free press is not something that the government is very fond of. It's time for us to realize how important it is for the free flow of information because news is what people don't want you to know."

PUBLIC SERVICE OR PRIVATE PROFIT?

Is journalism a public service or a for-profit business? Most people in the U.S. receive their news from for-profit businesses. What kinds of problems can occur when a news organization tries to make a profit? Are there ways for these organizations to exist without selling advertising space?



REPORTING FOR A REASON

Can a newspaper inspire you to action? The people at Positive News think so. Positive News is an independent newspaper that started in the United Kingdom. IndyKids spoke to Marty Luster of Positive News U.S. about journalism and alternative media. Here's what he had to say:

What is journalism?

Journalism is the gathering and accurate reporting of information.

Why did Positive News start?

Positive News was started to provide a way that everyday people can share their experiences in dealing with important issues that affect us all.

Is Positive News an "alternative" publication?

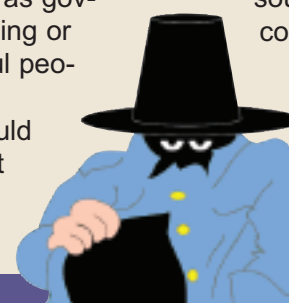
It is a clear alternative to mainstream media. We focus on issues of peace, social and economic justice, the environment, sustainability and joy. We address these issues by providing examples of what our readers can do to confront our problems.

You can find out more about Positive News by going to www.positivenewsus.org

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

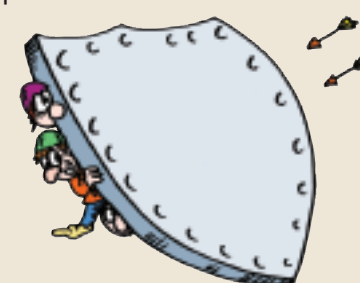
Investigative journalism is journalism that uncovers information that has been kept secret, such as government wrongdoing or crimes of powerful people.

Often, we would never know about these things if a person who witnessed something didn't tell a journalist about it. This person is called a confidential source. The journalist cannot tell who her confidential source is or the person could get in trouble. What else would happen if a journalist were forced to reveal the names of her sources?



SHIELD LAWS PROTECT SOURCES

Journalists in some states are protected by "shield laws" which allow them to keep the names of their sources secret and keep their notes and video or sound recordings private.



YOUR TURN!

Can you write an article using the following information?

Who: Michael
What: Michael's pet snake
Where: Michael's math classroom
When: Friday
Why: Michael's pet snake was tired of being kept in a box!



SHOULD THE MILITARY BE RECRUITING IN SCHOOLS?

Two high school students shared their thoughts with a news team from Children's PressLine. What do YOU think?

In my school, I don't see that the military recruiters make much of a difference. They're in the hallway during lunch, or when we are going to classes, but they don't interfere with learning. I've been walking down the hall and I talk to them. They all describe what a military career can do for me and what I can do for the military.

Logan Parke, 17
Little Rock, Arkansas

While recruiters aren't interfering with my schoolwork, they are interfering with other people when they're calling and harassing them when it's time for them to do their homework. Or they'll come into their classroom. In one of my gym classes, they set up an obstacle course and had the kids doing it. When I didn't do it they had me fill out a form of what my injury was, because I left the gym. You had to be 18 or else your parents had to sign a waiver. It said, "This form is for recruitment purposes only."

Kristen Kohlhase, 18
Minneapolis, Minnesota

NEWS TEAM: SAMANTHA AVEZZANO, 16; ANASTASIA BROWN, 15; ELIZABETH NEGRON, 13; SALIMA SULTANA, 17; AND EVAN WOOD, 11. PHOTO: MSNBC

RICH COUNTRY, HUNGRY PEOPLE

By SUE TREIMAN

This year, on the 30th anniversary of the modern Food Stamp Act, 35 million Americans won't have enough to eat, including 13 million children.

Sixteen percent of Americans are regularly "food insecure," which means they don't have enough money to make sure they are fed all year round. Numbers of those facing very low food security climbed from 10.7 million to 10.8 million in 2005.

16%
of Americans don't have enough money to ensure they are fed all year round

Why are so many people hungry in the United States, a wealthy nation? One reason is the low minimum wage. The minimum wage is the lowest the government allows employers to pay employees per hour, day, or month. Those working parents who receive the minimum wage — \$5.15 an hour — can barely cover the cost of feeding two children. Even if the hourly wage rises to \$7.25, as proposed by Congress, many families will still struggle to make ends meet.

Food stamps (credit given to the needy towards food) help, but roughly 40 percent of eligible families never sign up because the application process is too difficult and time-consuming. Food pantries and soup kitchens set up across the country also reduce hunger.

The proposed 2008 federal budget offers limited hope. Among other things, it seeks to end a supplemental food program serving 400,000 needy seniors and children.

Instead, advocates would like to re-authorize and broaden the Food Stamps Act in this anniversary year.

Says Joel Berg, Executive Director of the NYC Coalition Against Hunger, "Childhood hunger is one of the biggest unnatural disasters in America. But unlike a natural disaster, you can prevent it from getting worse."

Turkish Denial of Armenian Genocide

By LUCINE KASBARIAN

April 24 symbolizes the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, which destroyed 1.5 million Armenians, as well as hundreds of thousands of Assyrians and Pontic Greeks. On that date in 1915, hundreds of Armenian leaders were rounded up by the Turkish authorities and murdered in what was the start of a planned, organized attempt to eliminate native, non-Turkish populations from the Turkish Empire. Today, Turkey denies that it committed genocide, and even rewards authors, teachers, politicians, and governments for saying that this was not genocide but a civil war or an attempt to put down uprisings.

Armenians worldwide observe April 24 as a day of tragedy, but also as a day of survival. They attend religious services, cultural programs, and political demonstrations calling for justice.

"Armenians are also working to halt the current genocide in Darfur, Sudan, in an effort to make certain that all peoples can be free from the terror of genocide," says Tony Vartanian, Chair of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee of N.Y.

Each year, a resolution is introduced in U.S. Congress to



Armenians are marched out of town by armed Turkish soldiers in 1915.

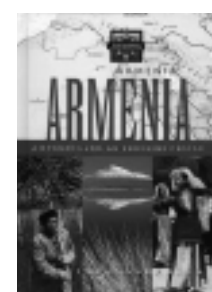
mark April 24 as Armenian Genocide Memorial Day. Turkey spent more than one million dollars to try to prevent this year's Genocide resolution from passing. According to U.S. congressmen Frank Pallone and Joe Knollenberg, Turkey has even threatened to close supply pipelines that aid U.S. soldiers in Iraq if the U.S. government does not defeat this resolution.

Turkish officials believe that admitting the Genocide occurred would harm their nation's public image, and require that Turkey return lands and properties to the victims. However, Turkey's acknowledgment of its past crimes against humanity might be an important step in the direction of earning the respect of the world. It would also relieve much pain still felt by genocide survivors, their families and their communities.

Learn More ...

Tamar, profiled on page 2 of this issue, recommends this book to kids who want to learn more about the country. Here's what she had to say:

Armenia: A Rugged Land, an Enduring People by Lucine Kasbarian is about the country Armenia, and its treasured and



tragic history. I found this book very informative and interesting. It includes the country's geography, culture, holidays, food, folk tales, and everything else that a reader could want to know about Armenia or the Armenian people. It's a great research book. I recommend this book for school reports and projects or if you're just looking for a good book to read to get an idea of what Armenia is all about.

My favorite part of the book is the chapter about Armenian folk tales, because they are so funny and interesting. Some of the stories are crazy, and others are unbelievable. They are a blast to read!

MELTING ICE: A REPORT FROM ALASKA



NATURALSSCIENCES.ORG

By KATY PARRISH

In the last four years Alaskans have seen warmer winters and summers. Barrow, Alaska, is in the Arctic Circle and is the northernmost town in the United States. There used to be miles of ice that went beyond the shore as far as the eye could see. In Barrow, they called this ice “pack ice.” But now it’s gone. Pack ice was used by the polar bears and humans to hunt the seals and whales they needed for survival. Now polar bears have to swim longer and farther, facing more danger, to bring food back to their families.

On March 20th more than 125 Alaska Native organizations signed a resolution urging Congress to take stronger action to combat global warming. Thousands of concerned people attended Climate Crisis Action Day, the largest demonstration held in Washington, DC on global warming. Many scientists blame global warming on greenhouse gases that come from burning fossil fuels, such as oil in cars and diesel in power plants. Some simple things you can do to help are encouraging your parents to drive cars that save gas, using more efficient light bulbs and planting a tree.



In Africa, malaria is the largest cause of death for children under five.

Malaria Drug Has Potential to Help Kids

By MALLORY JENSEN

Every thirty seconds, one child in Africa dies from malaria, a disease that is spread through the bites of female mosquitoes carrying certain parasites. Malaria feels a little bit like having a bad flu, but it’s much more dangerous. Though treatments have been available for some time, they have been hard to get, hard to pay for, and hard to use. As Dr. Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, said, “The world urgently needs more affordable and easy-to-use fixed-dose treatments for malaria, especially for children.”

This March, a new drug was released in Africa for people suffering from malaria – a drug that is easy-to-use, inexpensive, and very promising.

This new medicine is called ASAQ, the letters standing for the drug’s main ingredients, artesunate and amodiaquine (hard to say, but fun to sound out!), but the organization Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) and pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Aventis use them to stand for four other words that describe why the drug so important: ASAQ is **Adapted** from well-known drugs, **Simple** to take, **Accessible** for many people, and of top **Quality**. Each of the two ingredients that make up ASAQ targets a different aspect of the malaria-spreading parasite so that the person undergoing the treatment has a better chance of surviving the disease.

The partnership of DNDi and Sanofi-Aventis marks the first time a charitable organization and a for-profit drug company have teamed up to combat a serious problem by creating a new product that, because of its low price, will not make any money. This “dose of innovation” is a new way for medications to be made available and will hopefully serve as a model for others to follow.

Major Leagues Go Global

By CHRIS ANDERSON



Mets pitcher Pedro Martinez is from Manoguayabo in the Dominican Republic.

The Major League Baseball season began on April 1st, with the defending champion St. Louis Cardinals losing to the New York Mets. Even though baseball calls its championship game the “World Series,” most of the teams that participate are from cities in the United States. But more and more players on American baseball teams are from other countries. Baseball has become an “international” game.

In 2006, more than 27% of the players in Major League Baseball came from outside the United States. Many of the game’s greatest superstars—including pitcher Pedro

Martinez and slugger David Ortiz—are from the Dominican Republic, the foreign country that has sent the

most players to the Major Leagues.

With 15 foreign-born players, the New York Mets have the most international diversity, but not by much: the New York Yankees follow close behind, boasting players from Taiwan, Japan and Venezuela, among other countries.

Even though more and more players are from other countries, there are still no minority groups represented in Major League Baseball’s executive offices. There are only nine baseball managers and only two General Managers who are not white. Some say this is because of discrimination.

Further, many people argue that Major League baseball lures the best players from other countries with the promise of high pay, making the game less exciting in other countries. However, others are excited about the growth in numbers of players from outside the U.S., and about the increasing diversity of players who play baseball. They hope that increased diversity will help the sport grow and thrive.

MAKE YOUR OWN MAGIC MUDD!



SEED.SLB.COM

PLACE ABOUT 1/3 cup of cornstarch in a bowl.

Slowly add water, stirring with a fork. Add food coloring, if you would like.

Stop when the mixture looks like soft Play-Doh.

Place some of the mixture in your hand and squeeze it. Then release the pressure and see what happens.

Usually when pressure is applied to a substance, the melting point is lowered and the solid will turn to a liquid. Just the opposite happens with magic mudd!

-By Harriet Vender, 7th and 8th grade science teacher

Letters

Students from the Secondary School for Law in Brooklyn, NY, sent in these letters to IndyKids.

I disagree with the war in Iraq. It's not like the Americans were right about the dangerous weapons because they haven't found any weapons. I think this war is ridiculous and a waste of time.

TERRI, 7TH GRADE

Someone should really run Bush out of office because he's a child and being president is a grown man's business.

SHAWNDELL, 7TH GRADE

My opinion about the war in Iraq with the United States is that it should end. If the war continues, the U.S. will lose a lot of money and a lot of Iraqis will die.

MARTA, 7TH GRADE

We shouldn't send any more troops to Iraq! The president is risking even more lives for land and oil. It is really unfair. The troops shouldn't be taken away from their families. I really hope that the president changes his mind.

NICOLE, 6TH GRADE

I say this war is a very big mistake. The only reason why we went there is because of the oil they have. If they did not have that oil then we would not be there killing innocent people. Please help the U.S. to send back the troops.

JOSE, 7TH GRADE



RAISE YOUR HAND!

Let us know what you think. Email IndyKids at indykids@indymedia.org or write to P.O. Box 1417, New York NY 10276



Meet the IndyKids Mascot!

This is Wilton the Worm. He was created by Anthony Joseph Natale, a 5th grader at PS 311 Amistad in New York City. Look for more of Wilton and his friends in upcoming issues of IndyKids.

RECIPE

Chilled Cucumber & Yogurt Soup!

THINK OUTSIDE THE SQUAT, round container and try this IndyKids-approved recipe for yogurt soup!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 medium cucumbers | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 clove garlic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 quart plain yogurt | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2 cups ice-cold water | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tablespoon dry mint |

DIRECTIONS

1. Wash and peel the cucumbers. Cut lengthwise into quarters and then sideways into small slices.
2. Stir the yogurt in a bowl until smooth. Add the ice water and blend.
3. In a separate bowl, add salt to the garlic and crush. Then add the yogurt mixture with the cucumbers and stir well. Add crushed mint.
4. Serve chilled. Makes 4 servings.

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Excerpted from *Armenia: A Rugged Land, an Enduring People* by Lucine Kasbarian



THE BIKE CHURCH

TOO YOUNG TO DRIVE?

Or just like the outdoors? This spring, dust off your bicycle and get outside to enjoy the beautiful weather. Biking is a fun activity and it is also a healthy, non-polluting way to get from one place to another. There are a few things you need to keep in mind before you hit the streets. In order to stay safe while on two wheels, keep these key words in mind:

B is for Balance. In a park or on a bike path, make sure you remain balanced on your seat and riding in a straight line.

I is for Inflate. Make sure your tires are inflated before your ride. Fully inflated tires make it easier to pedal and help prevent glass or other debris from poking a hole in your tire.

C is for Check. Look over your bike before and after each ride. Make sure everything looks safe and tight.

Y is for Yellow. It helps to wear brightly-colored clothes so you can be easily seen. Make sure you bike also has reflectors.

C is for Cautious and Courteous. Obey all traffic laws and be sure to give hand signals when turning.

L is for Look and Listen. Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to cars, pedestrians, and other cyclists.

E is for egg — your head is fragile like an egg! Make sure you always protect it by wearing a helmet.

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This friendly bike advice was brought to you by The Bike Church, www.thebikechurch.org, which is housed in a garage next to Holy Spirit Church in Asbury Park, NJ.

It is a place where kids can come to learn about bikes, earn a bike, and go on bike rides. There are many of these youth bicycle programs nationwide. To find one in your town, visit the Youth Bicycle Education Network at www.yben.org.

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